

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 128130

R 180845Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3769

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: NAXA

TAGS: ELAB, EEC, XT, IT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CGIL AFFILIATION TO THE ETUC

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 1464 (B) ROME 12480 OF NOVEMBER 13, 1973

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EXPANDED SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN EARLY APRIL TO CONSIDER CGIL AFFILIATION WITH ETUC. CISL SOURCES NOW CONSIDER CGIL ENTRY ALONG WITH CHRISTIANS AT MAY ETUC CONGRESS TO BE HIGHLY PROBABLE. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING CISL SOURCES, CGIL REPRESENTATIVES FAVORABLY IMPRESSED THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S SUB-COMMITTEE (FEATHER, RASSCHAERT, STORTI AND VANNI) AT MARCH 3 BRUSSELS MEETING. THE CGIL PRESENTED ITS CASE FOR ENTRY INTO THE ETUC AND ACKNOWLEDGED READINESS TO AFFILIATE WITHOUT RESERVATIONS. CGIL REPRESENTATIVES DEMONSTRATED TO THE APPARENT SATISFACTION OF ETUC SUBCOMMITTEE THAT CGIL STATUS AS WFTU "ASSOCIATE MEMBER" IN FACT REPRESENTS SOMETHING AKIN TO DIS-AFFILIATION FROM WFTU. ACCORDING CISL INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR FABRIZIA BADUEL, CGIL STATUTES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO REFLECT " ASSOCIATE

STATUS" IN SPITE OF FACT WFTU HAS NOT YET APPROVED REQUEST FOR SUCH STATUS. FEATHER AND RASSCHAERT SAID TO BE IMPRESSED WITH CGIL ACTION WHILE FELLOW ITALIANS, STORTI AND VANNI, NEEDED NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO SUPPORT CGIL ENTRY INTO ETUC.

3. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL (A), ETUC AND CGIL REPRESENTATIVES PLANNING TO MEET AGAIN IN EARLY APRIL. APRIL 10 IS TENTATIVE DATE FOR MEETING OF EXPANDED SUB-COMMITTEE (FEATHER, RASSCHAERT, STORTI, VANNI

, VETTER, DEBUNNE, NIELSEN) WITH CGIL REPRESENTATIVES LAMA, BONACCINI AND UMBERTO SACALIA OF THE PCI AS WELL AS BONI AND DIDO FROM THE CGIL SOCIALIST WING. IF APRIL 10 MEETING GOES WELL, CGIL MEMBER-SHIP APPLICATION WILL BE PRESENTED TO APRIL 24 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SU

B-COMMITTEE WHERE APPROVAL THEN EXPECTED. CGIL SOURCES ANTICIPATE THAT ONLY FRENCH FORCE OUVRIERE WILL BE STRONGLY OPPOSED. FO, AWARE THAT CGT ENTRY NOT IN CARDS, WILL HOWEVER TAKE NO ACTION BEYOND NEGATIVE VOTE. SCENARIO WOULD THEN BE FOR MAY ETUC CONGRESS TO RATIFY ENTRY OF FORMER EO/WCL UNIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY RATIFICATION OF CGIL ENTRY. HYPOTHEIS THAT CHRISTIAN ENTRY WOULD RETARD OR CONVERSELY SPEED UP CONSIDERATION OF THE CGIL APPLICATION WULD IN THIS CASE NEVER BE PROVEN SINCE CHRISTIAN UNIONS WOULD HAVE NO VOTE IN THE MATTER.

3. ENTRY OF CGIL REGARDED BY SOME HERE AS A MEANS TO DIVIDE CGIL AND CGT WHICH HAVE ACTED IN CONCERT FOR 25 YEARS. THE SAME VIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOLDS THAT CGIL IS WADING ALONG A TIGHTROPE SINCE RUSSIANS REPORTEDLY UNHAPPY AT ALACRITY WITH WHICH CGIL HAS DILUTED WFTU RELATIONSHIP, THUS WEAKENING THAT ORGANIZATION AND ISOLATING CGT IN WESTERN EUROPE. THIS VIEW ALSO HOLDS THAT IT IS BETTER TO ABSORB CGIL IN ETUC WHERE IT WILL REPRESENT LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP THAN TO LEAVE CGIL OUTSIDE WHERE TOGETHER WITH CGT IT COULD BE TROUBLESOME. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME03654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740335/aaaabgvp.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BRUSSELS 1464 (B) ROME 12480 OF, NOVEMBER 13, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2002 by kellyw0>; APPROVED <02 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE CGIL AFFILIATION TO THE ETUC
TAGS: ELAB, XT, IT, EEC, CGIL, ETUC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005